

GOTCHA

Use mulch to retain moisture. Pine straw, melaleuca mulch, recycled yard waste and shredded hardwood mulch or chips are some of the best mulches. Mulch insulates plant roots from heat and controls weeds that compete with plants for moisture.





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right PLACE

Select and group plants according to their watering needs so that you can eliminate unnecessary watering. Put moisture-loving plants in areas of your yard that hold more moisture. Put plants that prefer well-drained soil in drier areas. For more information, contact the South Florida Water Management District for a copy of WaterWise: South Florida Landscapes.



one application can last an entire season!



Keep excess water that runs from your yard as clean as possible by fertilizing less and using slow-release fertilizers that last longer and release nutrients gradually. Look for a fertilizer with 2% or less phosphorus.

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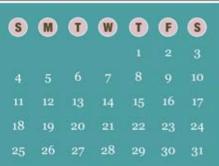


Buy plants that are naturally resistant or tolerant to pests so that you can reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides. Poisons sprayed on plants eventually end up in rivers, lakes and streams when they run off lawns during heavy rains.



BUG off!







mow BETTER



Don't cut your grass too short. But *Do* cut it regularly and be sure to use a sharp blade. Longer grass has more leaf surface to take in more sunlight. This enables it to grow thicker and develop a deeper root system. Longer grass also shades the soil surface, helping it to retain moisture and resist weed growth.



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When it's raining, turn off your automatic sprinklers. Better yet, install a rain sensor that disables the automatic system until drier conditions return.







Water your lawn during the early morning hours when temperatures are cooler and wind speed is the lowest. This reduces evaporation and wasteful watering.





When choosing a fertilizer... 2% phosphorus

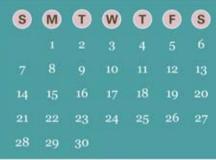
or less is best.

Oct DIRT on Fertilizer

A complete fertilizer contains nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Always, look for 2% or less phosphorus – the number in the middle on the fertilizer bag. Also, check your soil before buying fertilizer since many Florida soils do not need any additional phosphorus.



most of the year, lawns only need one inch of water per week

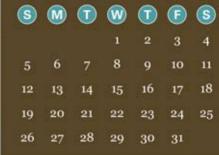


MUCH_{is} ENOUGH?

Watering less frequently with the right amount of water is better than watering often with small amounts. Water thoroughly so water will reach deeper portions of the soil resulting in healthier, deeper grass roots.







And where the yard begins. Position sprinklers so water lands on the lawn and shrubs and NOT on paved areas. Water that lands on the sidewalk or roads eventually runs off to stormwater drains that lead to the sea. Your neighborhood drainage system is not a garbage disposal. Excess fertilizer and pesticides from your yard can pollute lakes and streams. Lawn clippings can end up clogging street drains and blocking critical paths for water flow.

GO WILD!



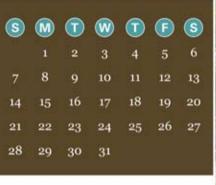
Rainfall provides enough water for Florida's native plants to flourish in the wild. Plant these same colorful, drought-tolerant natives in your yard so that your plants survive during our drier months.

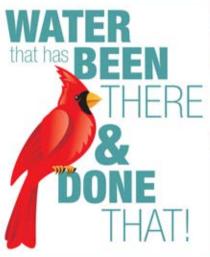
an extra bonus:

the butterflies that many of these plants attract are free!

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SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT







Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!
If you install a water feature
on your lawn such as a fountain,
make sure that it recycles
its water.

This calendar offers outdoor ideas for how to use water wisely all year long.

Did you know that South Floridians use half of their water on lawn irrigation, often over-watering?



The case can be used as a stand for your water conservation calendar.

